



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14866-000]

Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application

Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Competing Applications

On December 22, 2017, Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Preckle Pumped Storage Hydro Project to be located near Duryea Borough in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and Ransom Township in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) a new upper reservoir with a surface area of 300 acres and a storage capacity of 4,500 acre-feet at a surface elevation of approximately 1,356 feet above mean sea level (msl) created through construction of a new roller-compacted concrete or rock-fill dam; (2) a new lower reservoir with a surface area of 200 acres and a storage capacity of 3,480 acre-feet at a surface elevation of 550 feet msl; (3) two new 5,640-foot-long, 16-foot-diameter penstocks connecting the upper and lower reservoirs; (4) a new 150-foot-long, 250-foot-wide, 50-foot-high powerhouse containing two turbine-generator units with a total rated capacity of 450 megawatts; (5) a new 13,200-foot-long transmission line connecting the powerhouse to the 230/69-kilovolt Stanton substation owned by PPL Electric Utilities; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an annual generation of 27,594 megawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Adam Rousselle, Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC, 5710 Oak Crest Drive, Doylestown, PA 18902; phone: 267-254-6107.

FERC Contact: Woohee Choi; phone: (202) 502-6336.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14866-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the eLibrary link of the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-14866) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: January 12, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-01018 Filed: 1/19/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/22/2018]